

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:DLCARDWELL:

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S/S :CABORG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 040626

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS,PFOR,CT

SUBJECT: GOCAR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST US IN COUP ATTEMPT

REF: (A) STATE 37490 (B) STATE 39399

1. DURING INFORMAL CALL AT CAR'S EMBASSY FEBRUARY 19, AF/C COUNTRY OFFICER BRIEFED AMBASSADOR MAIDOU ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN US/CAR RELATIONS. IN LOW-KEYED MANNER, USING POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL A, DEPTOFF APPRISED MAIDOU OF OUR CONCERN OVER , (A) RUMORS THAT U.S. WAS TO BE BLAMED FOR COUP ATTEMPT, (B) THE IMPLICATIONS BEHIND GOCAR'S SUDDEN REINSTITUTION OF VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR AMCITS, (C) BOKASSA'S POSTPONEMENT OF HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. MAIDOU WAS TOLD THAT CHARGE SWING WOULD EXPRESS THESE SAME CONCERNS IN HIS FEBRUARY 19 MEETING WITH FONMIN FRANCK AND THAT AMBASSADOR QUANTON ALSO WOULD RAISE THEM DURING HIS FIRST PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BOKASSA.

2. MAIDOU, WHO HAD RECEIVED NO INDICATION FROM GOCAR OF TENSIONS IN US/CAR RELATIONS, AGREED THAT SITUATION WAS SERIOUS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED BOKASSA'S VULNERABILITY TO THE

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MACHINATIONS OF OUR "COMMON" ADVERSARIES, AS A RESULT OF

BOKASSA'S STAND ON ANGOLA. MAIDOU ALSO READILY ACCEPTED
OUR DENIAL OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION PLOT

AND AGREED THAT THE CONVICTION OF ONE OF OUR LOCAL EM-
PLOYEES, DESPITE NON-U.S. INVOLVEMENT, PROVIDED EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR ADVERSARIES TO SEEK TO PREDJUDICE
BOKASSA AND HIS GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE U.S.

3. MAIDOU EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE LOW-KEYED
APPROACH TAKEN BY DEPARTMENT IN BRINGING SITUATION TO HIS
ATTENTION. IN AN EFFORT TO ASSIST IN MAINTAINING CURRENT
GOOD US/CAR RELATIONS, MAIDOU PROMISED TO REPORT HIS CON-
VEATION WITH DEPTOFF TO CAR FONMIN, USING THE SAME
"UNDRAMATIZED" APPROACH. HE SAID THAT, FROM AN AFRICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW, HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT
THAT BOKASSA STILL PLANNING TO RECEIVE AMBASSADOR QUAINTON
ON FEBRUARY 20 HE STRESSED THAT THE TRUE TEST OF STATE
OF US/CAR RELATIONS WOULD COME DURING THE BOKASSA/QUAINTON
MEETING.

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